

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel) today voted to end workplace discrimination against Americans on the basis of sexual orientation. The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (H.R. 3685) by a vote of 235 to 184.

If enacted, the law would prohibit employment discrimination against gay, lesbian, and bisexual Americans. Currently, it is legal in 30 states to fire someone because of his or her sexual orientation, and no federal law prohibits such discrimination.

Rep. Farr released the following statement following today's vote:

"Prejudice against gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered is one of the last bastions for prejudice in America, and it's long overdue that we end such intolerance.

"I find it incomprehensible that 30 states allow blatant discrimination based on sexual orientation. If an employer fires a worker because he is black or she is pregnant, the community would rise up in protest. But bias based on sexual orientation is tolerated in far too many communities.

"I was proud today to vote with my Democratic colleagues in the House to protect workers from discrimination based on sexual orientation. I wish the bill would have gone even further, extending protection to the transgender community, but I recognize that we must move forward where we can.

"I hope the Senate takes up this bill and moves this worthy cause forward. I look forward to working with Democratic leadership to advance tolerance and acceptance wherever we can."

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